



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

May 13, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND AUTHORITY TO PROCEED
WITH IMPROVEMENTS TO HIGHLAND AVENUE
IN THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 4)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

This action is to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration and authorize the Department of Public Works to proceed with improvements to Highland Avenue in the City of Manhattan Beach.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project to repair the roadway on Highland Avenue from 45th Street to 15th Street in the City of Manhattan Beach, together with any comments received during the public review period, find on the basis of the whole record before your Board that there is no substantial evidence the project will have a significant effect on the environment, find that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of your Board, and adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Program for Reporting and Monitoring the Implementation of Environmental Mitigation Measures.
2. Approve the project and authorize the Department of Public Works to carry out the project.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended action is to fulfill the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the project to repair the roadway on Highland Avenue from 45th Street to 15th Street and authorize the project to proceed.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs that we provide Service Excellence (Goal 1), Organizational Effectiveness (Goal 3), and Community Services (Goal 6). This action will improve traffic flow and safety for motorists and pedestrians, thereby improving the quality of life in the County of Los Angeles (County) while utilizing the collaborative efforts of the City of Manhattan Beach (City) and the County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$1,072,000, with the City to finance the total cost of the improvements. The County will fund the initial project cost of \$1,072,000 and will be reimbursed by the City in accordance with provisions of a future agreement, which will be forwarded to your Board following execution by the Manhattan Beach City Council. This environmental finding is a prerequisite to their action because, as a responsible agency, the City must consider the adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration and make an independent CEQA finding. Funding for this project will be included in the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Proposition C Local Return Fund Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of the proposed project is to make Highland Avenue more navigable and safer for motorists from 45th Street to 15th Street in the City.

An environmental impact analysis/document is a CEQA requirement that is to be used in evaluating the environmental effects of this project and should be considered in the approval of this project. As the project administrator, the Department of Public Works is also the lead agency in terms of meeting the requirements of the CEQA.

The project involves cold milling and resurfacing of the existing asphalt pavement roadway along Highland Avenue between 45th Street and 15th Street. The curb, gutter, and sidewalk that are damaged will be replaced. The drainage structures will also be replaced. Existing traffic striping and markings will be repainted on the new pavement surface. The traffic signals and street lights that are affected by curb ramp and sidewalk

construction will be relocated and replaced. Most of the street trees are in fair to poor condition, therefore they will be removed and replaced, which will improve the visual character of the area.

Based upon the Initial Study of Environmental Factors, it was determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, approval of the attached Mitigated Negative Declaration is requested.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

An Initial Study was prepared for this project in compliance with CEQA. The Initial Study identified one potential significant effects of the project: *aesthetics*. Prior to the release of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study for public review, revisions in the project were made or agreed to which would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, as follows:

Aesthetics: It has been determined that the removal of approximately 117 Cottonwood trees adjacent to the street on Highland Avenue between 45th Street and 15th Street may have a significant effect on the environment. All trees removed will be replaced with 15 gallon King Palm trees. It is anticipated that the new procession of palm trees down Highland Avenue will enhance the visual character of the area. Therefore, the effect of tree removal will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

The Initial Study showed that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment. Based on the Initial Study, a Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared. Public notice was published in the *Beach Reporter* on June 14, 2007, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21092. Two comments were received and are included in the attached Mitigated Negative Declaration.

The location of the documents and other materials constituting the record of the proceedings upon which your Board's decision is based in this matter is the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Programs Development Division, 900 South Fremont Avenue, 11th Floor, Alhambra, California 91803. The custodian of such documents and materials is Mr. Edward Dingman, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

The project is not exempt from payment of a fee to the California Department of Fish and Game pursuant to Section 711.4, of the Fish and Game Code to defray the costs of fish and wildlife protection and management incurred by the California Department of

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
May 13, 2008
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Fish and Game. Upon your Board's adoption of the Negative Declaration, the Department of Public Works will file a Notice of Determination in accordance with Section 21152 (a) of the California Public Resources Code and pay the required filing and processing fees with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk in the amount of \$1,926.75.

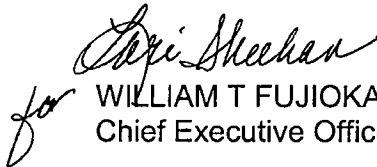
IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The proposed project will improve traffic flow and safety for motorists and pedestrians and enhance the visual character of the area.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Public Works, Programs Development Division.

Respectfully submitted,


WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

WTF:DDE
SA:re

Attachment

c: County Counsel
Department of Public Works (Design, Public Affairs)

**PROGRAM FOR REPORTING AND MONITORING THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL
MITIGATION MEASURES**

HIGHLAND AVENUE FROM 45th STREET TO 15th STREET

The project includes other standard mitigation measures as discussed in Section XVIII of the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

1.0 Program Management

- 1.1 After adoption of environmental mitigation measures by your Board of Supervisors, the Department of Public Works (Public Works) shall designate responsibility for monitoring and reporting compliance with each mitigation measure. Responsibility for monitoring and reporting compliance with mitigation measures, if any, shall be designated by Public Works as appropriate.
- 1.2 To facilitate implementation and enforcement of this program, Public Works shall ensure that the obligation to monitor and report compliance with environmental mitigation measures is required by all project-related contracts between the County and A/E, prime construction contractor, and any other person or entity who is designated to monitor and/or report compliance under this program during the preconstruction and construction phases.
- 1.3 Public Works as appropriate, shall take all necessary and appropriate measures to ensure that each project-related environmental mitigation measure, which was adopted, is implemented and maintained.

2.0 Preconstruction

- 2.1 Public Works is responsible for incorporating mitigation measures into project design and confirming in writing that final construction drawings include all design-related mitigation measures.
- 2.2 Public Works is responsible for incorporating mitigation measures and confirming in writing that final construction drawings include all design-related mitigation measures.

3.0 Construction

- 3.1 Public Works or prime construction contractor for project and/or for project-related off-site improvements is responsible for constructing and/or monitoring the construction of mitigation measures incorporated in final construction documents and reporting instances of noncompliance in writing.

- 3.2 Public Works or prime construction contractor for project and/or for project-related off-site improvements is responsible for implementation and/or monitoring the implementation of mitigation measures affecting methods and practices of construction (e.g., hours of operation, noise control of machinery) and reporting instances of noncompliance in writing.
- 3.3 Public Works is responsible for monitoring compliance of prime construction contractor(s) with responsibility set forth in 3.1 above and reporting noncompliance in writing.

4.0 **Project Operation**

- 4.1 After completion and final acceptance of the project, Public Works is responsible for monitoring and maintaining compliance with adopted mitigation measures, which affect project operation

LN:re

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
HIGHLAND AVENUE FROM 45TH STREET TO 15TH STREET

I. Location and Brief Description

Highland Avenue from 45th Street to 15th Street in the City of Manhattan Beach is a primary road typically 46 feet between the edges of pavement with 60 feet of right of way. The construction will take place along 1.4 miles of the roadway. The asphalt concrete is in poor condition with transverse and longitudinal cracking.

This is a road reconstruction project. The existing asphalt pavement roadway between 45th Street and 15th Street on Highland Avenue will be cold milled and resurfaced. The roadway will be resurfaced with 2 to 3 inches of asphalt concrete pavement. Curb, gutter, and sidewalk will be replaced along the entire length of the project. Drainage structures will be replaced. Traffic striping and markings will be replaced. Traffic signals and street lighting that are affected by curb ramp and sidewalk construction will be replaced and relocated. Most of the street trees are in fair to poor condition, therefore they will be removed and replaced, which will improve the visual character of the area.

The purpose of the project is to repair the roadway and improve highway safety.

II. Mitigation Measures Included in the Project to Avoid Potentially Significant Effects

Based on the attached Initial Study, it has been determined that the project may have a significant effect on the environment and will require mitigations. The removal of 117 cottonwood trees will be mitigated by their replacement with a like number of King Palm trees, preserving the visual character of the street, and extending the planting scheme of streetside palms currently in place through downtown to the north, presenting a consistent visual theme to the traveler along Highland Avenue.

III. Finding of No Significant Effect

Based on the attached Initial Study, it has been determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment with the identified mitigation measures incorporated.

INITIAL STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

1. **Project Title:** Highland Avenue from 45th Street to 15th Street
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 11th Floor, Programs Development Division, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803-1331.
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Ms. Liz Ngo (626) 458-3938.
4. **Project Location:** Manhattan Beach, California.
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803-1331.
6. **General Plan Designation:** Maintenance/Resurfacing Asphalt Concrete Pavement.
7. **Zoning:** Residential and Commercial.
8. **Description of Project:** This is a road reconstruction project. The existing asphalt pavement roadway between 45th Street and 15th Street on Highland Avenue will be cold milled and resurfaced. The roadway will be resurfaced with 2 to 3 inches of asphalt concrete pavement. Curb, gutter, and sidewalks will be replaced along the entire length of the project. Drainage structures will be replaced. Traffic striping and markings will be replaced. Traffic signals and street lighting that are affected by curb ramp and sidewalk construction will be replaced and relocated. Most of the street trees are in fair to poor condition, therefore they will be removed and replaced, which will improve the visual character of the area.
9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Settings:**
 - a. **Project Site**– Highland Avenue from 45th Street to 15th Street is an urban highway that is typically 46 feet wide on 60 feet of right of way.
 - b. **Surrounding Properties**– The topography of the surrounding project area is generally flat. The project is in a residential area. There are predominantly two types of development: Residential Medium Density, with multiple residential uses including duplexes, town houses, apartments, multi-dwelling structures, or cluster housing with landscaped open space for resident use, and Residential High Density, an intensive form of residential development including apartments and town houses with relatively high land coverage. At the north end of Highland Avenue are commercial businesses and the south end is the Civic Center. No known endangered species or species of special concern exist within the project limit. Wildlife that may occur in the area is a variety of birds, domestic animals, and insects.
10. **Other agencies whose approval is required (and permits needed):**

No other permits or approvals are required for this project. While the project is within the Coastal Zone, the work is exempt from the requirement for a Coastal Development Permit per the City of Manhattan Beach's Local Coastal Plan, Section A.96.050 C since it is a repair or maintenance activities that does not result in an addition to or enlargement or expansion.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or "Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated," as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

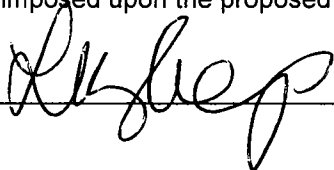
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils
<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance	

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a potentially significant impact or potentially significant unless mitigated impact on the environment, but at least one effect a) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and b) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature



Date

4/30/08

Liz Ngo

Printed Name

LACDPW

For

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. "Potential Significant Impact" is appropriate if an effect is significant or potentially significant or if the lead agency lacks information to make a finding of insignificance. If there are one or more "Potential Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.
4. "Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potential Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVIII, "Earlier Analysis," may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other California Environmental Quality Act process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). Earlier analyses are discussed in Section XVIII at the end of the checklist.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). See the sample question below. A source list should be attached and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

HIGHLAND AVENUE FROM 45TH STREET TO 15TH STREET ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

		Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS - Would the project:					
	a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			X	
	b) Substantially damage scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?				X
	c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?		X		
	d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X
II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES - In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:					
	a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?				X
	b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?				X
	c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use?				X
III. AIR QUALITY - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:					
	a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				X
	b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X	
	c) Results in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for zone precursors)?				X
	d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
	e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X	
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
	a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
	c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on Federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				X
	d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident, migratory fish, or wildlife species; or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors; or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				X
	e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X
	f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan; Natural Community Conservation Plan; or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?				X
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:						
	a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in '15064.5?			X	
	b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to '15064.5?			X	
	c)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X	
	d)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			X	
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:						
	a)	Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
	i)	Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a know fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				X
	ii)	Strong seismic ground shaking?				X
	iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			X	
	iv)	Landslides?				X
	b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			X	
	c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?			X	

		Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?			X
	e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?			X
VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:					
	a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X
	b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?		X	
	c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?		X	
	d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code, Section 65962.5, and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			X
	e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			X
	f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			X
	g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?		X	
	h)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?			X
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:					
	a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			X
	b)	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of preexisting nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			X
	c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			X

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	d)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?				X
	e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				X
	f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				X
	g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X
	h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				X
	i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				X
	j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				X
IX. <u>LAND USE AND PLANNING</u> - Would the project:						
	a)	Physically divide an established community?				X
	b)	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X
	c)	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X
X. <u>MINERAL RESOURCES</u> - Would the project:						
	a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
	b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?				X
XI. <u>NOISE</u> - Would the project result in:						
	a)	Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?			X	
	b)	Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X	
	c)	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
	d)	A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
	f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
XII. <u>POPULATION AND HOUSING</u> - Would the project:						
	a)	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				X
	b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
	c)	Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
XIII. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES</u> -						
	a)	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
		Fire protection?				X
		Police protection?				X
		Schools?				X
		Parks?				X
		Other public facilities?				X
XIV. <u>RECREATION</u> -						
	a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				X
	b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X
XV. <u>TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC</u> -						
	a)	Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?			X	

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	b)	Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County Congestion Management Agency for designated roads or highways?			X	
	c)	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				X
	d)	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
	e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?			X	
	f)	Result in inadequate parking capacity?			X	
	g)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				X
XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:						
	a)	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
	b)	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
	c)	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
	d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X
	e)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				X
	f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				X
	g)	Comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X
XVII. MANDATORY FINDING OF SIGNIFICANCE -						
	a)	Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		X		

			Potential Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively Considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)				X
	c)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				X

XVIII. DISCUSSION OF WAYS TO MITIGATE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS -

Section 15041 (a) of the State California Environmental Quality Act guidelines states that a lead agency for a project has authority to require changes in any or all activities involved in the project in order to lessen or avoid significant effects on the environment. Mitigation proposed for a potentially significant effect has been identified. The removal of 117 cottonwood trees will be mitigated by their replacement with a like number of King Palm trees, preserving the visual character of the street, and extending the planting scheme of streetside palms currently in place through downtown to the north, presenting a consistent visual theme to the traveler along Highland Avenue.

In addition, the following best management practices have been included in the project.

Air Quality

- Compliance with applicable air pollution control regulations.

Geology and Soils

- Proper disposal of all excess excavated material.

Noise

- Compliance with all applicable noise ordinances during construction.
- Construction activities would be restricted to the construction times allowed by the County, except during emergency situations.

Transportation

- Advance notification of all street and/or lane closures and detours to all emergency service agencies and affected residents.

Hazards and Hazardous Material

- Maintenance of construction equipment.

ATTACHMENT A

DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

HIGHLAND AVENUE FROM 45TH STREET TO 15TH STREET

I. AESTHETICS - Would the project:

a) ***Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?***

Less than significant. The proposed project is within close proximity to the ocean, with it attendant views. However, the focal point of the view is the ocean and replacement of Cottonwood trees with King Palm trees would have a less than significant effect on the overall scenic vista.

b) ***Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?***

No impact. The proposed project is not in the vicinity of a state scenic highway, and therefore will have no impact.

c) ***Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?***

Less than significant impact with mitigation. Based on the attached Initial Study, it has been determined that the removal of approximately 117 Cottonwood trees adjacent to the street on Highland Avenue between 45th Street and 15th Street may have a significant effect on the environment and will require mitigations. All trees removed will be replaced with 15 gallon King Palm trees. It is anticipated that the new procession of palm trees down Highland Avenue will enhance the visual character of the area. Therefore, the effect of tree removal will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

d) ***Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?***

No impact. The proposed project will not introduce any additional lighting systems. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on nighttime views in the area.

II. **AGRICULTURE RESOURCES - Would the project:**

- a) ***Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?***

No impact. The proposed project is located within an urban residential area. The project location is not used for agricultural purposes or as a farmland. Thus, the project will have no impact on farmland.

- b) ***Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?***

No impact. The proposed project will not conflict with any zoning for agricultural use.

- c) ***Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use?***

No impact. The proposed project does not involve changes in the existing environment that could result in the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use.

III. **AIR QUALITY - Would the project:**

- a) ***Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?***

No impact. The Department currently complies with dust control measures enforced by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The proposed project will not conflict with the current implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

- b) ***Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?***

Less than significant impact. Construction-related emissions and dust would be emitted during project construction. However, the effect would be temporary and would not significantly alter the ambient air quality of the area. Construction activities are anticipated to occur from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The project specifications would require the contractor to control dust by appropriate means such as sweeping and/or watering and comply with

applicable air pollution regulations. The impacts would be temporary and considered less than significant.

- c) ***Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?***

No impact. The project will not result in a permanent increase in vehicle trips to the project location. Emissions during project construction would be temporary and are not expected to result in a cumulative net increase of pollutants. The project would have no impact on ambient air quality standards and will not lead to emissions that exceed thresholds for ozone precursors.

- d) ***Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?***

Less than significant impact. There are residents and businesses in the area that may be subjected to dust and construction equipment emissions during the project construction. Project specifications would require the contractor to control dust by appropriate means such as sweeping and/or watering and comply with all applicable air pollution control regulations. The impact is considered to be less than significant, since exposure would be temporary and precautions will be taken to reduce exposure to pollutants. After construction, traffic flow is expected to improve and concentrated vehicle emissions are expected to decrease.

- e) ***Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?***

Less than significant impact. Objectionable odors may be generated by diesel trucks used for the construction of the project. These types of odors will be short-term and temporary. Therefore, the impact of creating objectionable odor is considered less than significant.

IV. **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:**

- a) ***Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?***

No impact. No sensitive or special status species, as identified by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, are known to exist at the project site. The project will have no impact on sensitive or special status species or their respective habitat.

- b) ***Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?***

No impact. The project would be constructed on an existing roadway. No impacts to a riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community would occur.

- c) ***Have a substantial adverse effect on Federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?***

No impact. The proposed project does not involve a wetland habitat. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact wetland habitat.

- d) ***Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?***

No impact. There are no migratory wildlife corridors located at the proposed project location. Also, the project is not proposed within a watercourse of any fish habitat. Therefore, there will be no impact on resident or migratory fish or wildlife nursery sites.

- e) ***Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?***

No impact. No known locally protected biological resources exist at the project site. Therefore, the proposed project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

- f) ***Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?***

No impact. No known adopted habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan exists within the project site. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on any of these plans.

V. **CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project**

- a-d) ***Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource, directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource, site or geologic feature, or disturb any human remains, including those interred outside formal cemeteries?***

Less than significant impact. No known historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources exist in the project area. The project consists of cold milling and resurfacing the existing roadway. Curb, gutter, and sidewalks, drainage structures, traffic striping and markings will be replaced. Construction does not require the removal of any historic structures or resources. It is unlikely that construction would affect buried archaeological or paleontological resources, unique geologic features, or disturb any human remains. Per standard procedures outlined in the project specifications, if during construction cultural resources are discovered, work will stop in the immediate area, and archaeologists will be notified upon such discovery and appropriate measures will be performed to mitigate the impacts to the resource. Therefore, any impacts would be less than significant.

VI. **GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:**

- a) ***Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:***

- i) ***Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.***

No impact. There are no known active faults underlying the project site and we do not anticipate a fault rupture occurring at the project site.

- ii) ***Strong seismic ground shaking?***

No impact. The proposed project does not require any earthwork. The project area has not been the epicenter of any known earthquake. Thus, the activities related to the project will not trigger a strong seismic ground shaking.

iii) ***Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?***

Less than significant impact. The project involves resurfacing and maintaining of existing streets in an urban area. Although located in an area with potential for liquefaction, the scope of work would involve minimal excavation and would most likely not disturb the soils. The project will have a less than significant impact on seismic-related ground failure.

iv) ***Landslides?***

No impact. The project location is in a residential and commercial area, consisting of relatively flat terrain; it does not contain any geologic features (i.e., hills or mountains), which may adversely cause landslides. Therefore, the project will have no impact on landslides.

b) ***Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?***

Less than significant impact. The existing topography would be altered slightly due to additional asphalt concrete. The project includes removal and replacement of trees in the paved parkway, which typically will not result in soil erosion or in substantial loss of top soil. The project impact on soil erosion and loss of topsoil is considered less than significant.

c) ***Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?***

Less than significant impact. The project involves cold milling and resurfacing of existing streets in an urban area. Although located in an area with potential for liquefaction, the scope of work for the project would involve minimal excavation and would most likely not disturb the soils. The project will have a less than significant impact on a geologic unit or unstable soil.

d) ***Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?***

No impact. The soil at the project location is not considered expansive. Soil expansion is not expected at the proposed project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact soil expansion.

- e) ***Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?***

No impact. There are no septic tanks or sewer pipes included in the project. Therefore, the project will have no impact on the use of septic tanks or alternative waste disposal systems.

VII. **HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:**

- a) ***Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?***

No impact. The proposed project does not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, the project would have no impact on the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

- b-c) ***Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment or emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials, substances or wastes within one quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?***

Less than significant impact. Combustion engine fluids from the construction equipment are potentially hazardous substances. Necessary precautions will be taken to prevent the spillage of any hazardous substances that may affect the public or the environment at the project site. It is unlikely that an explosion, emission, or release of hazardous or acutely hazardous substances occur as a result of the proposed project. Project specifications would require the contractor to properly maintain all equipment during construction. In the event of any spills of fluids, the contractor is required to remediate according to all applicable laws regarding chemical clean-up. The proposed project is not anticipated to result in hazardous emissions or a hazardous substance spillage, thus the project impact on the public or environment is considered to be less than significant.

- d) ***Be located on a site, which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code, Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?***

No impact. The project site is not known to be a hazardous materials site. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on hazardous materials.

- e) ***For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?***

No impact. The proposed project is not located within an airport land or within two miles of a public use airport. The proposed project will have no impact on safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.

- f) ***For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?***

No impact. The proposed project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact relating to airstrip safety for people residing or working in the project area.

- g) ***Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?***

Less than significant impact. The project site is located within the public road right of way and may interfere with the emergency response plan. However, this would have only a short-term effect as possible lane closures would be temporary during the construction period. The project specification will require at least one through traffic lane to remain open at time during construction and the notification of emergency service providers within the area of any street closures. The project impact on emergency service response plan is considered less than significant.

- h) ***Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?***

No impact. The project site is developed, and in an urbanized area with no flammable brush wildlands located in the vicinity. Thus, the proposed project would not expose people or structures to a risk involving wildland fires.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:

- a) ***Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?***

No impact. The proposed project is not within a watercourse and is, therefore, not anticipated to have an effect on the water quality standards

or waste discharge requirements within a water body. However, the contractor is required to implement Best Management Practices (BMP) as required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued to the County by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to minimize construction impacts on water quality. Therefore, the project will have no impact on hydrology or water quality.

- b) ***Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?***

No impact. The proposed project would not result in the use of any water that would result in a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the groundwater table. Thus, no impacts to groundwater supplies or groundwater recharge are expected to occur.

- c) ***Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?***

No impact. The proposed project would not result in changes to existing drainage patterns of the project site. Thus, no erosion or siltation impacts are expected to occur.

- d) ***Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site?***

No impact. The proposed project would not result in changes to existing drainage patterns of the project site. Therefore, the project will have no impact on the rate or amount of surface runoff.

- e) ***Create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?***

No impact. The construction of the project will not result in additional surface water runoff. Therefore, the project will have no impact on the capacity of existing stormwater drainage systems.

f) ***Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?***

No impact. The portion of the project on Highland Avenue involves cold milling and resurfacing the existing roadway. The contractor will adhere to applicable BMP's to minimize any degradation to water quality during construction. Therefore, the project is not expected to generate contaminated surface water runoff.

g) ***Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?***

No impact. The proposed project will not place any housing within a 100-year flood hazard area.

h) ***Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows?***

No impact. The proposed project will not place any structures within a 100-year flood hazard area, which would impede or redirect flood flows.

i) ***Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?***

No impact. The proposed project would not expose people or property to water related hazards.

j) ***Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?***

No impact. The proposed project will not cause any inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

IX. **LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:**

a) ***Physically divide an established community?***

No impact. The project would not introduce a barrier, which would divide the physical arrangement of the established business community.

- b) ***Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?***

No impact. The project does not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of the County of Los Angeles.

- c) ***Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?***

No impact. The proposed project does not conflict with any habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan adopted by any agency or community.

X. **MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the project:**

- a) ***Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?***

No impact. The proposed project would not deplete any mineral resource and would therefore, have no impact on mineral resources.

- b) ***Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?***

No impact. The project site is not identified as a resource recovery site in the local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on a locally-important mineral resource recovery site.

XI. **NOISE - Would the project result in:**

- a) ***Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?***

Less than significant impact. Noise levels within the proposed project site would increase during construction activities. However, the impact is temporary and will be subject to existing noise ordinances and standards set by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The contractor will be required to comply with the construction hours specified in the County noise control ordinances. The construction period will last for a short period, and the project would not expose people to

severe long time noise levels. The impact due to severe noise levels is considered less than significant.

b) *Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

Less than significant impact. Construction of the proposed project would require the use of equipment that would generate groundborne vibration or groundborne noise vibration. However, the project specifications would require the contractor to comply with all noise laws and ordinances. Construction would be short-term and temporary, thus the project impacts would be considered less than significant.

c-d) *A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project or a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?*

Less than significant impact. The project vicinity could be subjected to a minimal increase in noise levels during construction due to construction activities and transportation of materials to and from the site. However, the contractor will be required to comply with the construction hours specified in the County noise control ordinances. Since the project will not change the configuration of the existing roadway, traffic noise levels will not increase. There would be a less than significant impact on permanent or temporary ambient noise levels.

e-f) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels or for a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?*

No impact. The proposed project is not located within the vicinity of an airport land use plan. The Los Angeles International Airport land use plan is approximately one mile north of the proposed project.

XII. **POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the project:**

- a) ***Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?***

No Impact. The proposed project will not change the roadway characteristics and will not increase the growth rate of the human population in the area.

- b-c) ***Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere or displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?***

No impact. The project will not displace existing houses nor displace people, creating a demand for housing. The project will have no impact on housing.

XIII. **PUBLIC SERVICE - Would the project:**

- a) ***Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services: Fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, other public facilities?***

No impact. The goal of the proposed project is to improve the existing road and alleviate traffic congestion. Thus, the project will not affect public service and will not result in a need for new or altered governmental services in fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities. However, the County will coordinate with the police and fire departments regarding construction scheduling to prevent response time delays. After the construction has been completed, improved traffic flow would benefit the fire department and police services in having a quicker response time.

XIV. **RECREATION - Would the project:**

- a) ***Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?***

No impact. The proposed project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks.

- b) ***Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?***

No impact. The proposed project does not include recreational facilities and would not require the construction or expansion of any recreational facilities.

XV. **TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the project:**

- a) ***Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?***

Less than significant impact. The construction of the proposed project may cause minor delay in traffic due to road lane closure during construction. However, this impact is only during construction and, therefore, is temporary and short-lived. The impact of the project on substantial traffic increases is considered to be less than significant.

- b) ***Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?***

Less than significant impact. Any possible minor increase in traffic congestion in the project area due to construction is temporary and therefore less than significant.

- c) ***Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?***

No impact. The proposed project will have no impact on air traffic patterns.

- d) ***Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?***

No impact. Refer to response XV(a). The project is reconstruction of the roadway in the same configuration as existing, and does not involve any design features that are known to constitute safety hazards. The project would have no impact on hazards due to design features.

- e) ***Result in inadequate emergency access?***

Less than significant impact. Traffic will temporarily be impacted during project construction, since the project will require that one lane be closed at a time. Also, the presence of construction equipment on the street may slow down traffic. However, an alternate emergency access will be maintained at all times. City of Manhattan Beach's fire, police, and paramedic services will be notified of the schedule and duration of construction activities. Therefore, the impact of the proposed project on emergency access is considered less than significant.

- f) ***Result in inadequate parking capacity?***

Less than significant impact. During the construction phase, there will be no parking in the construction zone, but since this is a temporary effect, the impact is less than significant.

- g) ***Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?***

No impact. There will not be any conflicts with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:

- a) ***Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?***

No impact. The project will not result in contamination or an increase in discharge of wastewater that might affect wastewater treatment. Thus, the proposed project will have no impact on the wastewater treatment requirements of the RWQCB.

- b) ***Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?***

No impact. The proposed project will not result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.

- c) ***Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?***

No impact. The stormwater drainage facilities will not be affected by the proposed project.

- d) ***Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?***

No impact. The proposed project will not result in a need for additional water supplies. Therefore, the project will have no impact on existing water supply entitlements and resources.

- e) ***Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?***

No impact. No increase in the number of wastewater discharge facilities will occur as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on wastewater treatment.

- f-g) ***Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs and comply with Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?***

No impact. Any solid waste generated will be disposed of by the contractor in accordance to all Federal, State, and local regulations relating to solid waste. Therefore, the project will have no impact on Federal, State, and local solid waste statutes or regulations.

XVII. **MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE - Would the project:**

- a) ***Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?***

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporation. Based on findings in this environmental review, the proposed project does not have the potential to substantially reduce the habitat of a fish and wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. However, due to the removal of 117 Cottonwood trees, the project may have a significant impact to the quality of the environment. The removal of the trees will be necessary due to the fact that the trees are diseased. This impact will be mitigated, however, with the replacement of the trees with King Palm trees.

- b) ***Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects?)***

No impact. The proposed project would not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulative considerable.

- c) ***Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?***

No impact. The proposed project would not have a direct or indirect detrimental environmental impact on human beings.

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ATTACHMENT B

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

RECEIVED ON INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Presented below are responses to comments received during circulation of the draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration regarding the proposed Highland Avenue - 45th Street to 15th Street project. Responses are provided to all comments that raise environmental issues, as required by the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. A copy of the letters is included on the following pages.

Response to a letter received from Julia Tedesco

- 1-1 The County of Los Angeles and the City of Manhattan Beach are fully aware of District 12, 13, and 14 voting for plans to do underground work in late 2010. If and when the undergrounding is approved, the County and City will coordinate in such a manner that the road improvements are not completed before the undergrounding.

Response to a letter received from Diane Alterman and Curtice Wong

- 2-1 The goal of the proposed project is to improve the existing road and alleviate traffic congestion. During the construction, there will temporarily be no parking in the construction zone during the day, which may result in the inconvenience of having to park further away than desired. The City of Manhattan Beach has been involved in this project and has also reviewed the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and will offer permits to park at Manhattan Beach City Hall on the residents' behalf with the parking situation.
- 2-2 All storm drain inlets were observed to be near the curb and not in the flow of traffic in the street, and construction specifications require the pavement to be flush with the inlets, so it is not anticipated to be a problem. There are no plans to do additional modification of the drainage structures on Highland Avenue.

317 31st Street
Manhattan Beach, CA
June 13, 2007

RECEIVED
JUL 19 2007 10:58

100 S. FREMONT AVE.

County of Los Angeles
Dept. of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA.

RE: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE
DECLARATION, HIGHLAND AVE., MANHATTAN BEACH

Dear Ms. Ngo,

As per our telephone conversation, I am writing to you regarding the proposed improvements to Highland Ave. from 15th Street to 45th Street. While this would certainly be a very nice improvement, I do believe it would be a waste of tax payer monies for the following reason: In the summer of 2009 Undergrounding District 13 (Highland to Alma Ave, and Marine to Rosecrans, will vote on the *formalized* plans to underground our district. Our City has already paid about \$200,000.00 for a design from Edison. It is my understanding that Highland Ave. will have to be torn up, IF the undergrounding is voted on by District 13. I do know that some properties on Highland are in another district that voted YEARS ago to underground and that project is almost finalized.

1-1

I would suggest a conversation with our City and Edison, before voting to improve Highland Ave.

Sincerely,



Julia Tedesco
310 545-4905

Re: Mitigated Negative Declaration, Highland Ave,
Manhattan Beach

Dear Ms. Lgo, County of LA Public Works

While we support the idea of making Highland Ave prettier and safer, the ensuing nightmare along Highland for another dig-up is just plain scary (the city has already dug-up Highland 4 times in the last year); particularly since Highland is the principle artery for commuter travel for a large portion of City residents, not to mention that our house fronts Highland and has been suffering through construction debris, noise, and access problems off and on for the last 3 years.

My primary concern, however, will be a severe anticipated lack of parking. Many of us are forced to utilize street parking on a regular basis. I feel that this issue needs to be fully addressed before any construction begins, and not just in some vague, iffy way. The best answer would be for the city to provide free, guaranteed Highland area-resident only parking at some close by lot for the duration (much like they provided temporary parking during the police building construction); at least consider suspension of street sweeping limits. I feel this may go a long way to soothing tempers in what will undoubtedly be a very stressful construction project.

2-1

Another concern is the configuration of the drainage grids at the base of the cross streets. Any drainage collectors must be flush with the asphalt or heavy trucks hitting the bumps cause the houses along Highland to shake significantly as well as create a tremendous amount of noise (the drainage in front of our house at Highland and 20th had to be reconfigured for just such a problem); we fear a return to the conditions of past years.

2-2

We hope this project is tackled with some intelligence, thoughtfulness and forward thinking that will anticipate and mitigate the problems that will undoubtedly ensue with this project.

Yours,

2012 Highland Ave